

Responses to Questions Submitted

#	Question RFA Section Reference	Question	Answer
1	Attachment 2: Letter of Intent	Is it possible for the MHSOAC to provide a list of the counties who submitted an LOI?	No. Per RFA page 19 applicant materials are confidential information at this time, until the procurement is finished.
2	Attachment 2: Intent to Apply	If two jurisdictions each submitted a separate LOI and later submitted a joint LOI, are they still eligible to apply either separately or together?	Yes.
3	II. Purpose and Goals	The Grant identifies the intended population for TAY as 16 to 25, Ventura County Behavioral Health TAY program is 18 to 25. To receive funding do we need to include the 16 and 17-year old's as part of our intended population?	Yes. For the purposes of this grant, the TAY population is aged 16 to 25 years of age.
4	II. Purpose and Goals	If the County does target the 18-25 what effect will that have on proposal scoring?	The Application may be deemed non-responsive since it does not meet the intended population for the grant.
5	II. Purpose and Goals;	Can funding through this grant be used to expand an existing program with an emphasis on the TAY population that is funded through another funding source?	Existing services can be augmented by triage personnel, per RFA page 1, Section II Purpose and Goals; and pages 8 and 9, Section V.B.3 Proposed Triage Grant Program(s). But, per RFA page 6 RFA, Triage funds cannot be used to supplant existing financial and resources commitments of the grantee.
6	II. Purpose and Goals	Can funding through this grant be used on youth, ages 5 to 16, as part of the intended population?	No. The eligible age group for this RFA is transition age youth, ages 16 to 25, and adults age 22 and over per RFA page 1, Section II Purpose and Goals. There will be a separate RFA released soon that is intended for individuals age 21 and under.
7	II. Purpose and Goals	Will there be a separate RFA to serve pediatric patients ages 16 and under?	Yes. An RFA for programs serving persons 21 and under will be released soon.
8	II. Purpose and Goals	If awarded, will the program be restricted from serving populations outside the grant's intended population?	The programs funded with these grants are to be designed to serve the needs of the intended population.

Responses to Questions Submitted

#	Question RFA Section Reference	Question	Answer
9	III. Triage Personnel	Are peer providers a requirement for the Triage program? If so, what are the certification requirements?	The use of peer providers and persons with lived experience will be taken into consideration and will be scored. The RFA does not require certification. For counties that require peers complete certain training (i.e. certification), page 9 of the RFA asks the Application to describe the certification process and the steps to ensure certification happens in a timely manner.
10	IV.A. Eligibility Criteria	How is “city behavioral health department” defined for the purposes of eligibility?	A “city mental health department” or “city behavioral health department” means a city department that is operating independent public mental/behavioral health programs and is receiving direct payments from the state under Welfare and Institutions Code section 5615.
11	IV.B. Funding	Is there flexibility in submitting the fiscal report? We typically close our books within 60-90 days of the end of the fiscal year.	Per RFA page 14 the Commission may modify the reporting date to better fit in with a grantee’s normal month-end financial cycle. This flexibility will be granted on an as needed basis and will be determined by the Commission contract manager. However, it is expected that grantees will adhere to the 30 day deadline.
12	IV.C. Grant Cycle	Will the Check In Meetings be routinely scheduled, what format will it entail, and is it a required activity to be included as part of the reporting requirements?	The check-in meetings will be scheduled ahead of time and can take place by phone, email, or teleconference. The meetings may occur on a monthly or as needed basis, depending on the needs of the grantee and the contract manager.
13	IV.C. Grant Cycle	Will the month of May be the beginning of the grant term or annual grant cycle? Will the annual grant cycle run from July through June?	The grant cycle will start once the contracts are fully executed, which is currently planned for May 2018.
14	IV.D. Grant Apportionment	Verification that the “designated population” is considered the total population of the County (listed in section IV, D page 5) and not a behavioral health subsection of the County population.	The population designation is the total population of the county.

Responses to Questions Submitted

#	Question RFA Section Reference	Question	Answer
15	IV.D.1. Funding Caps	If the MHSOAC receives more applications than funding available, is it the intention of the MHSOAC to score the highest ranked applications, going down the list until the funding is completely allocated or will the MHSOAC develop a list of all qualified applications and reduce the amounts available to each applicant providing some funding to all qualified applicants?	Funding apportioned for each county designation will be awarded to the highest scoring application first, and if funds are still available after that award, funds will be awarded to the next highest scoring application, until all funds have been awarded, or there are no more responsive Applicants in the county designation. Not all qualified applications will be funded due to the designation cap. The last award in a funding designation may be partially funded due to the designation cap.
16	IV.E. Allowable Costs	Will grant funds cover operating costs (i.e. computers, cell phones, space, flex funding for client related expenses such as bus passes, food, etc.?)	Operating costs are covered under the administration costs of the grant, which is capped at no more than 15% of the total budget.
17	IV.E. Allowable Costs	Can a county apply to renew an existing triage personnel grant?	No. This grant is not intended to sustain previous triage programs.
18	IV.E. Allowable Costs	Could the new Triage grant award create an issue to supplant existing financial and resource commitments of the existing program?	Grant funds may not be used to supplant existing financial and resource commitments of the grantee. Per RFA page 9 if the grant funds are used to augment existing programs, the Application must include specified information.
19	IV.E. Intent to Apply	Since the Intent to Apply due date was extended, will the Application submission date be extended?	No. The Application submission date will remain the same.
20	V. Information Required in the Grant Application	Can a county apply for two separate triage personnel programs in one grant application?	Yes. A county can apply for more than one triage program with one application. Regardless of the number of programs proposed, each application will be scored as one application. Per RFA page 8 under Section V.B.3.a, each program shall be described.
21	V. Information Required in the Grant Application	Can those description be combined on all program narrative attachments?	Use one template for each program described.
22	V.B.1. Current Mental Health System	In the Current Mental Health System (Section V.B.1), does that applicant have to include all programs requested?	Yes, per RFA page 7

Responses to Questions Submitted

#	Question RFA Section Reference	Question	Answer
23	V.B.1. Current Mental Health System	Do we list PEI, INN, and FSP programs twice, once in V.B.1.a and again in the respective section? Or how should we structure our response to avoid duplication of information?	The list in V.B.1.a, refers to programs previously funded by the Act. Per the RFA page 1, the term, "Act" as used in the RFA means the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act. Section V.B.1.b-d refer to programs funded by the Mental Health Services Act.
24	V.B.1. Current Mental Health System	The instructions for V.B.1.a state to "Provide a description for each of the following: All current programs in the county or collaborative funded by the Act." Does this only include CSS, PEI, and INN projects or are we also required to report WET and CFTN programs?	The list in V.B.1.a, refers to programs previously funded by the Act. Per the RFA page 1, the term, "Act" as used in the RFA means the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Act. Section V.B.1.b-d refer to programs funded by the Mental Health Services Act.
25	V.B.1. Current Mental Health System	When you refer to "programs in the county", are you referring to the programs within the Department of Mental Health or the County in its entirety?	"Programs in the county" refer to programs contracted and/or provided by the county mental health department.
26	V.B.1. Current Mental Health System	When you refer to "currently funded", are you referring to programs which are funded and may not yet be implemented or programs funded and fully implemented?	Both.
27	V.B.1. Current Mental Health System	For those programs included in the County's current annual update, may the annual update be used as an attachment and substituted as a reference to answer the questions? (i.e. Please see the attached annual update, page 3, section 2 as a response to this question.)	No. The use of the templates is mandatory.
28	V.B.1. Current Mental Health System	1e states to list all of the homeless services available in the County, including linkage services as well as temporary and permanent affordable housing. Is it the intention of the MHSOAC for applicants to summarize all of the affordable housing options in a jurisdiction?	Applicants must list all temporary and permanent affordable housing available to the homeless population aged 16 years and over either contracted and/or provided by the county.

Responses to Questions Submitted

#	Question RFA Section Reference	Question	Answer
29	V.B.1. Current Mental Health System	1e [sic] states to list all of the non MHSA-funded crisis services including law enforcement and school based programs. All school districts are required to have a crisis plan for response. Is it the intention of the MHSOAC for applicants to summarize all of the crisis response plans from all of the school districts?	Applicants must list any law enforcement and school based programs provided and/or contracted by the county mental health department that is not MHSA funded.
30	V.B.2. Needs Assessment and Findings	May the Needs Assessment Process and Findings have been conducted from a previous fiscal year?	The Needs Assessment Process and Findings should have been conducted between the last triage grant award (2013) and present.
31	V.B.3. Proposed Triage Grant Program(s)	Verification that funding though this grant can be used to expand current programs, i.e. Adding staff to an existing program to reach clients that are either hard to contact or current staffing was insufficient to meet the number of clients.	Existing services can be augmented by triage personnel, per RFA page 1, Section II Purpose and Goals; and Section V.B.3 Proposed Triage Grant Program(s). Triage funds cannot be used to supplant funds from other programs or to continue a triage program from the first round of grants.
32	V.B.3. Proposed Triage Grant Program(s)	Can applicant submit an Annual Update in lieu of using the template to answer the requirements in the Current Mental Health System?	No. The use of the templates is mandatory.
33	V.B.3. Proposed Triage Grant Program(s)	If a city is applying, are they required to list the programs within the city or do they need to list all programs in the County, regardless of their availability to the City-specific mental health division?	If an eligible city is applying for a separate grant, then that eligible city is only required to list the program within the city.
34	V.B.3. Proposed Triage Grant Program(s)	Could you explain or provide examples regarding what specific supports we should offer our collaborative partners?	We are not able to provide examples of what counties should offer their collaborative partners, since that is something each county-collaborative partnership needs to define.
35	V.C.2. Collaboration	Do we only need letters of commitment and Operational Agreements (MOUs) with our local hospital and law enforcement?	Only Letters of Intent to Collaborate and MOUs (or other related agreements) are required for proposed programs that are dependent upon collaboration with another entity such as a law enforcement department, hospital, school.
36	V.C.2. Collaboration	Are Applicants not asked to submit letters of support from organizations that they provide services to?	Applicants are not asked to provide letters of support.

Responses to Questions Submitted

#	Question RFA Section Reference	Question	Answer
37	V.E. Statewide Evaluation	What are the punitive actions taken by the Commission if we are unable to collect the information from the collaborative partner?	The Commission may withhold funds for grantees who fail to meet the reporting requirements, per RFA page 4.
38	V.E. Statewide Evaluation	What method will the individual level data be submitted to the Evaluation Contractor?	This will be determined by the evaluation contractor through a separate process
39	V.E. Statewide Evaluation	What are the required components of the individual level data to be submitted to the Contractor/Commission?	This will be determined by the evaluation contractor through a separate process
41	VI.E. Intent to Apply	Can more than one Letter of Intent to Apply be submitted by the same county, each with different "Lead County" identified on the form?	Yes
42	VI.E. Intent to Apply	If selecting "intend to submit a bid, but have one or more questions" and later determine no need for questions, will the application be affected?	No.
43	VI.E. Intent to Apply	Can a county apply if a Letter of Intent to Apply was not submitted or if the Letter of Intent to Apply was submitted late?	No. A county must submit a Letter of Intent to Apply in order to apply for the RFA and the Letter of Intent to Apply must have been received by the MHSOAC by the deadline.
44	XI. Application Assembly and Submission Instructions	Are there margin and/or page length requirements or specification in the RFA?	No. Mandatory templates have been provided as attachments in the RFA. The templates will expand to accommodate answers. Margins are not to be adjusted on the templates.
45	XI.C. Assembling the Application	Do we need to submit the cover sheet along with the RFA?	Yes per RFA page 22.
46	XII. Reviewing and Scoring Applications	Why dock 75 points to current grant holders?	The Commission voted at the Commission meeting on August 24, 2017 to prioritize counties that did not receive funding in the first round of grants.
47	XII. Reviewing and Scoring Applications	May the 75 point allocation apply to counties that submitted and received grant funding in 2013 but apply for a program serving a different population?	Per RFA page 26 a county that applied but did not receive a Triage Grant in 2013 will receive 75 points. A county that received a Triage Grant in 2013 will not receive the 75 points specifically allocated for those counties that applied but did not receive a grant in 2013.

Responses to Questions Submitted

#	Question RFA Section Reference	Question	Answer
48	XII. Reviewing and Scoring Applications	Are there any additional points awarded for a collaborative application?	Per RFA page 27 up to 250 points are available for applicants who have existing Collaborations or have the Letters of Intent to Collaborate included as part of their application.
49	XII. Reviewing and Scoring Applications	If a county and city are applying jointly and one jurisdiction did not receive Triage Grant funding and one jurisdiction did, does the joint application receive the 75 points for that criteria?	The 75 points for the criteria pertains to the lead county on the application. Therefore, if the lead county is the one that did not get the grant from the first round of grants, then the 75 points would be awarded. If the lead county did receive funds from the first round of grants, then the 75 points would not be awarded.